Call for funding applications and invitation to nominate young researchers for the Wallenberg Academy Fellows program

The Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (the Foundation) has decided to set up a long-term program for young researchers: Wallenberg Academy Fellows.

In close cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and the Swedish Academy, the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation has created a program that will provide resources for Sweden’s most promising researchers to develop their work. The program addresses young researchers in medicine, natural sciences, engineering and technology, humanities and social sciences.

The purpose of the Wallenberg Academy Fellows program is to give young researchers working conditions that enables them to focus on research and tackle difficult, long-term research questions.

Swedish universities are invited to nominate candidates for the program. Final date for nomination is 15th of February, 2016. The Swedish Academies will evaluate and select the most promising researchers and the universities will then take long-term responsibility for these individuals. The Foundation will also, in cooperation with the Academies, create a mentor program that offers support for the researcher’s academic development and also for innovation.

After consultation with the Principals’ Council, a decision has been reached to amend the nomination- and incentive structure of recruitments of international researchers. These amendments is presented in the text and summarized below.

1. The universities themselves decide how many candidates they will nominate, however, a new rule is that only one internal candidate can be nominated for each external nomination.

2. The universities should strive for at least 40% of the nominations to be the underrepresented sex.

3. The research grants for international nominations are increased

Scope
The call has no limitation in number of nominations, however, the above requirements of number of external candidates and candidates of the underrepresented sex have to be met. The Foundation aim at financing 25 – 30 young researchers 2016. The program is initially intended to run for five years, totally financing up to 150 young researchers. If the program is successful, the Foundation’s intention is to extend it for five years max.

The financing of the Foundation will include:

- Grants of SEK 1,000,000/year for five years for researchers within theoretical disciplines.

- Grants of SEK 1,500,000/year for five years for researchers within theoretical disciplines, who at the time of nomination are working abroad*.
- Grants of SEK 1,500,000/year for five years for researchers within experimental disciplines.

- Grants of SEK 2,000,000/year for five years for researchers within experimental disciplines who at the time of the nomination are working abroad*.

- Researchers, who at the time of nomination are working abroad, can apply for additional grants (startup grants) of SEK 1,500,000, 3,000,000 or 4,500,000. The level is decided by the nominating university and a co-financing with the same amount is required.

- Researchers, who at the time of the nomination are working abroad can also apply for moving expenses of SEK 100,000.

* Nominated within the category “Researcher working abroad at the time of the nomination”, have not been employed by the nominating university and not received salary or other financing from the nominating university during the last four years.

The appointed researcher will be employed by the nominating university and a relevant position must be guaranteed.

The universities are co-funding the initiative by guaranteeing that no more than a maximum of 50% of the researcher’s payroll expenses will be charged to the grant. A university may choose to fund the researcher’s entire salary, thereby helping to give him or her larger unencumbered research grant. The university will also be co-funding the initiative by contributing funds for indirect expenses, over and above the potential contribution from the Foundation.

After five years, the universities will be invited to nominate their appointed researchers to compete for another five years funding. A maximum of 30% of the originally appointed fellows can be approved for extension. If the financing is prolonged, SEK 1,750,000 will be granted per year during five years.

**Nominations for the program**

The universities are invited to nominate candidates for the Wallenberg Academy Fellows program 2016. Universities themselves, decide how many candidates they will nominate, however, a new rule is that only one internal candidate can be nominated for each external nomination. The university should strive for 40% of the nominations to be the underrepresented sex.

**Who can be nominated?**

The program is open to researchers in all academic disciplines: medicine, engineering and technology, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities/religion, and also in the interfaces between them.

Candidates nominated in 2016 must have obtained their PhDs after 1 January 2008. An exception may be made for nominees whose PhDs date back to before 2008 but who, on request, can document parental leave or extended sick leave that has taken place since the PhD exam. It is thus possible for the earliest qualifying date for a PhD to be moved back by the same length of time as the parental or sick leave lasted.
**Nomination procedure**

A candidate cannot be nominated by more than one university. A candidate must, when nominated by a specific university, approve the nomination.

Documents attached to the nomination, all in English except for the Brief popular scientific summary in Swedish, must include the following:

- The person’s research qualifications, i.e. CV (max two A4 pages) covering positions held, awards won and postdoctoral research stays, if any.
- A list of all publications in peer-reviewed journals, with the ten most important publications marked. If relevant, an H-index (Web of Science, Scopus or Google Scholar) together with number of publications and number of quotes the H-index is based on, is attached. Google Scholars preferably use Harzing’s Publish or Perish. For nominations in the field of humanities, a complete list of published articles should be enclosed.
- A short (max two A4 pages) account of the person’s career, i.e. primarily his or her academic achievements together with information of present support from Universities or other financial support.
- A project proposal (max six A4 pages).
- Each nomination must contain a brief presentation of the reasons why the nominee’s activities are considered a key component of the research profile of the university and a description of the nomination process, i.e. the arguments, evaluations and processes on which the nomination was based (max two A4 pages).
- A brief popular scientific summary in Swedish (max one A4 page).
- External candidates attach a motivation stating the reasons why he/she wants to establish his/her research at the nominating university (max 1 A4 page).

The nominations and applications must be registered electronically on the Foundation’s website.

**Evaluation process**

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and the Swedish Academy, will be responsible for the evaluation process.

The selection process will be implemented in five different evaluation panels: medicine, engineering and technology, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities/religion. The panel members are appointed by the Academies and have broad academic expertise.

One of the five subject areas above must be specified in the nomination. Only one area can be specified for each nomination.

The five panels will evaluate and rank incoming nominations. The five ranking lists will then be submitted to KAW, which will decide on the number of grants in each area.

**Assessment criteria**

See Appendix 1.
Closing date for nominations and applications
Complete nominations and applications must be received by the Foundation at the latest by the 15th of February, 2016.

Full documentation for each nominee must be submitted electronically, by the universities, to the Foundation in accordance with the routines for grant applications. The complete budget form is not required with the nomination, only submit a brief description of the amount applied for.

Decision
The Wallenberg Academy Fellows will be appointed by the Board of the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation in November 2016 and the decision will be announced in December 2016.

Application/nomination period
The application period starts on the 7th of January 2016 and a complete nomination/application must be received by the Foundation at the latest by the 15th of February, 2016.